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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JOHN CORNYN, a Senator from the State of Texas.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Almighty God, the refuge of all that are distressed, how appropriate for us to lift our hearts to You in the morning. You are our shield and the one who lifts our heads. You sit in the heavens and oversee the plans and activities of humanity. Lord, You are sovereign. The hearts of kings, queens, and presidents are in Your hands.

Help us to not be afraid of the challenges that confront this Nation or fear the forces that seem arrayed against us.

Arise, O God, and bless us with Your favor. Set us apart in Your joy. Teach us to put our trust in You that we may eat the bread of gladness. Lead our Senators today in the right paths. May they strive not for success but for faithfulness. Whatever this life may bring, keep their faith robust. Give us Your light, that we may have life.

We pray this in Your strong name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JOHN CORNYN led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. TED STEVENS).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, October 14, 2003.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, section 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN CORNYN, a Senator from the State of Texas, to perform the duties of the Chair.

TED STEVENS,
President pro tempore.

Mr. JOHN CORNYN thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, today the Senate will be in a period of morning business for 1 hour. The first 30 minutes of that time will be under the control of Senator HUTCHISON, with the remaining 30 minutes under the control of the Democratic leader or his designee. Following the morning business period, the Senate will resume consideration of the Iraq and Afghanistan supplemental request. Also today, the Senate will recess from 12:30 to 2:15 for the Democratic Party luncheon. The Republican policy meeting will occur tomorrow. Accordingly, we will recess to accommodate that luncheon as well.

When the Senate reconvenes at 2:15 today, there will be 15 minutes of debate for closing remarks with respect to S. 1053, the genetic information non-discrimination bill. The vote on passage of S. 1053 will occur at 2:30. That will be the first vote of today's session.

Following that vote, the Senate will resume consideration of the supplemental request for Iraq and Afghanistan. Additional rollcall votes can be expected.

I remind everyone that prior to the recess, the Democratic leader and I indicated the Senate will finish this bill by the close of business this week. Having said that, I believe Members have had adequate time to study the bill and draft amendments they believe may be necessary. If Senators desire to offer amendments, they should contact the bill managers and not delay until later in the week.

There are a number of important issues the Senate will address before completing our work in the coming weeks. I will have more to say about the schedule for these final weeks as we go forward. At this time, I expect the Senate should remain focused and complete action on the urgent and vital appropriations bill before the Senate.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Democratic whip is recognized.

Mr. REID. If I could direct a question to the majority leader, it is my understanding we will have a break not only today, as has already been announced by the majority leader, but you are having your weekly caucus tomorrow, so tomorrow Members should be advised that from 12:30 to 2:30 the Republicans will be involved in their weekly party conferences; is that right?

Mr. FRIST. Through the Chair, that is correct. We will have recess during tomorrow's lunch as well as today.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will be a period for the transaction of

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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morning business for up to 60 minutes, with the first 30 minutes of the time under the control of the Senator from Texas, Mrs. HUTCHISON, or her designee, and the second 30 minutes of the time under the control of the Democratic leader or his designee.

The Senator from Utah.

Mr. BENNETT. On behalf of the Senator from Texas, Mrs. HUTCHISON, I yield myself the first 30 minutes in morning business.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

IRAQ AND THE DEFICIT

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, we have come back from the break. Most Members, I imagine, have had the same kind of experience I have had in meeting with my constituents. We have discovered the question of what we should be doing in Iraq is foremost on our constituents' minds. Second, we have discovered—at least I have—that there is great concern about the size of the deficit. Those two issues were joined in debate in the Senate before we left for the break. I think it appropriate we talk about them together now that the break is over.

Let me first turn to the question of the deficit and the debate that took place in this Chamber with respect to the \$87 billion that has been requested by the President to pay for the war activities and the reconstruction of Iraq. We were told in this Chamber we had to raise taxes by \$87 billion to pay for this, and that if we did not, we would see the deficit go up by \$87 billion. We defeated that amendment, but there were those with whom I met during the break who still had that view.

The interesting thing we discovered during the break was that the projections for the size of the deficit changed. This is no surprise to anyone who has spent time paying attention to the deficit. As I have said in this Chamber over and over and as I will repeat over and over, the one thing I know with respect to the deficit projections, or surplus projections when those were the order of the day, is that they are wrong. I do not know if they are wrong on the high side or wrong on the low side but I do know they are wrong.

The other thing I know is that the further out they go, the more likely they are to be wrong. That is, a 10-year projection is absolutely certain to be wrong; a 5-year projection has a 99.94 percent chance of being wrong; a 3-year projection might be a little bit closer; and so on with a 2-year projection. The only ones that come really close to being accurate are the very near term projections.

The interesting thing that happened during the break was that the near-term projections of the size of this year's deficit changed. They went down. In other words, we found out during the last week that those who spend their time looking at the size of

the deficit have now looked at the numbers, now looked at the revenues coming into the Federal Government, and now project the current deficit will be roughly \$85 billion less than was projected when we had the debate.

If we had had those numbers during the debate, obviously I would have referred to them to point out that it is not necessarily the size of the tax rate that determines the amount of tax revenue. That is a truth, again, that we repeat over and over but that gets forgotten over and over. What determines the amount of tax revenue is the amount of economic activity that takes place in the economy as a whole tied to the tax rate, not the tax rate itself. If you set the tax rate too high, you guarantee the economic activity will slow and the tax take will go down.

We cut the tax rate at the beginning of this administration, we cut it again last year, and we are now seeing economic activity pick up to the point that tax revenues have gone up. As I say, according to those who are now projecting this year's deficit, the tax revenues have surprised us to the point that we are now going to have roughly \$85 billion more in revenue than was projected just a month ago.

That is a coincidental number because it comes very close to the \$87 billion we are asking for. I will not suggest in any sense that we should tie those two together. The closeness is purely coincidental. Nonetheless, it demonstrates that those who want to use the deficit as the reason for support of their opposition to what we are doing in Iraq are going to have to find another excuse because the economy is responding to the tax treatment that came out of this Congress. In that response we are getting more tax revenue, and it is going to be less of a financial burden on this country than we thought it would be even as recently as a month ago.

All right. Let me turn now to the other argument we hear, over and over and over, in a constant drumbeat, with respect to Iraq; that is, the argument that this administration somehow misled the American people, misled the world by claiming Saddam Hussein was a threat. Then you get into the details of that claim, and they say he had no weapons of mass destruction, his economy was in ruins, he did not have the ability to threaten his neighbors, he was no threat or, if we can go back to a phrase I have seen some columnists use: Saddam Hussein was no Hitler.

I want to address that this morning. I would hope in this Chamber, of all places, we would have a sense of history, we would understand what really went on in times past, and what really is going on in a historical framework in our present time.

Let me take that phrase, "Saddam Hussein was no Hitler," and use it as the framework for this kind of examination. If we go back in history to the time of Hitler, we can discover a time

when I think it could be said accurately that Hitler was no Hitler. Let me explain what I mean by that.

The Hitler we think of when we look back in history now is the Hitler who stood at the head of a major army of a major nation state waging world war upon all of the other nations around him. Hitler did not start out as that kind of a Hitler. He started out as a politician with a relatively small following and a bitter message in a world of turmoil.

When he became the chancellor of all of Germany, he was a minority politician leading just one party of a series of parties. The primary individuals in Germany at the time thought by making him chancellor they could buy him off and use him and his party in a way that would allow them to continue their power. They misjudged him. When he became chancellor, he, of course, moved to consolidate his power rather than to cooperate with anyone.

He then led Germany into a very risky military operation. He moved to reclaim land that had been taken from Germany in the First World War and ceded to France. If the French Army—arguably the largest on the continent at the time—had confronted him in that move, it would have meant the end of his political career; it would have made sure that nazism, the Nazi party would have disappeared, and Hitler would have been gone. But the French were afraid of a little bit of combat, they were afraid of a little bit of confrontation, and they allowed Hitler to take over that territory.

Well, without going into a complete history of the time, let's go forward to the pivotal event that preceded the Second World War, the Conference at Munich.

Here are the circumstances that led to that event: Hitler had designs on Czechoslovakia. Hitler insisted that Czechoslovakia belonged to Germany and announced he was going to take it, and take it by force. The British Prime Minister, Neville Chamberlain, contacted Hitler and said: Can we meet one more time before you act to take Czechoslovakia by force? Hitler agreed, and they met in Munich, Germany.

Chamberlain was terrified that war might break out. Chamberlain was afraid Great Britain was not ready for war. Chamberlain was anxious to give Hitler whatever he could, and, ultimately, Chamberlain gave Hitler Czechoslovakia. Without the British honoring the implied guarantee they would prevent any invasion of Czechoslovakia, Hitler was free to take over that country.

Now, again, if we look at it through the lens of Hitler at the top of his power, we would say, well, he proposed to swallow Czechoslovakia by his tremendous army. In fact, however, Hitler did not have a tremendous army prior to Munich. He had one on paper, but he did not have one in actuality. His generals were terrified as to what would happen to that army if, indeed, it was